

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 15, 2005. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 29 to 44 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 6, 11 and 41 to 44 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because it was allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that it is directed to a computer-readable storage medium. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 14, 16 and 29 to 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,081,342 (Nakai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,894,792 (Abe). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns failure recovery in a printing environment. On occurrence of a failure, print processing is aborted or suspended and resumption of the print processing is according to recovery of the failure. In a case where the failure occurs in one device, another device can be changed to process a second print job. In a case where the failure is recovered in the original device, another device can be changed to process the first print job automatically. The claimed invention makes it possible for a user not to input instructions one by one and to control processing order of a print job efficiently.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print processing method for executing print processing upon exchanging print information with a device connected via a network. The method includes: a step of submitting print information, which has been generated by one device, to another device and starting a first print job; a

detection step of detecting whether a failure has occurred on the side of the one device during the submission of the print information; a step of determining to abort or suspend processing of the first print job, which is currently being submitted, in accordance with the detection made in the detection step; a step of reporting abort or suspension of processing to the other device, which receives the print information: a step of aborting the processing of the first print job in the other device according to receipt of the notice which indicates abort; a step of suspending the processing of the first print job in the other device according to receipt of the notice which indicates suspension; a step of processing a second print job which differs from the first print job, after the processing of the first print job has been suspended in the step of suspending; and a step of resuming processing of the first print job according to recovery of the failure which occurred on the side of the one device, after the second print job has been processed in the step of processing.

In contrast, Nakai discloses an image forming system. In the system, a request-receiver device is controlled to wait, in a case where obstructions have occurred on the part of a request-sender device. Nakai may disclose suspension of print processing, in a case where the obstructions have occurred. However, Nakai does not disclose or suggest the feature of processing a second print job which differs from the first print job, after the processing of the first print job has been suspended and resuming the processing of the first print job according to recovery of the failure occurred, after the second print job has been processed.

Furthermore, Abe discloses a print system and a job management method of the print system. In a case where a job under execution is suspended, Abe discloses that a configuration for processing other jobs is stored in the system previously to the suspended job.

In column 9, lines 40 to 42, Abe discloses a configuration for restarting the suspended job according to selection of a restart button 530-2 activated by an user. Therefore, a system in accordance with the disclosures of Abe cannot make the suspended job restart automatically according to recovery of a failure. Therefore, Abe does not disclose or suggest the feature of resuming the processing of the first print job according to recovery of the failure occurred on the side of one device, after a second print job has been processed.

As neither Nakai nor Abe, neither alone nor in combination, disclose or suggest the feature of resuming the processing of the first print job according to recovery of the failure occurred on the side of one device, after a second print job has been processed, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 6 and 11 are directed to a storage medium and system, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 6 and 11 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

New Claim 41 is directed to a first printer capable of executing print processing of a first print job transmitted from a second printer. The first printer comprises means for suspending the print processing of the first print job in said first printer, in a case where said first printer receives notice which indicates suspension of the print processing of the first print job and is transmitted from said second printer; and means for executing the print processing of the first print job without receiving a user's instruction after completion of print processing of a second print job, in a case where said first printer receives the notice and the second print job which differs from the first print job and is transmitted from said second printer.

New Claim 42 is directed to a first printer capable of executing print processing of a first print job transmitted from a second printer. The first printer comprises means for suspending the print processing of the first print job in said first printer, in a case where said first printer receives notice which indicates suspension of the print processing of the first print job and is transmitted from said second printer; means for executing print processing of a second print job without executing the print processing of the first print job, in a case where said first printer receives the notice and the second print job which differs from the first print job and is transmitted from said second printer; and means for executing the print processing of the first print job after completion of print processing of a second print job according to receipt of notice which indicates resumption of the print processing of the first print job and is transmitted from said second printer.

Applicant submits that the discussion from above in support of Claim 1 applies as well to Claims 41 and 42. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 41 and 42 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 43 and 44 are directed to methods substantially in accordance with the apparatuses of Claims 41 and 42, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 43 and 44 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the allowability of each independent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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